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Cuvie
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絢爛(けんらん)たるグランドセーヌ

La Magnifique Grande Scène

volume seven

07

Champion RED Comics
RED

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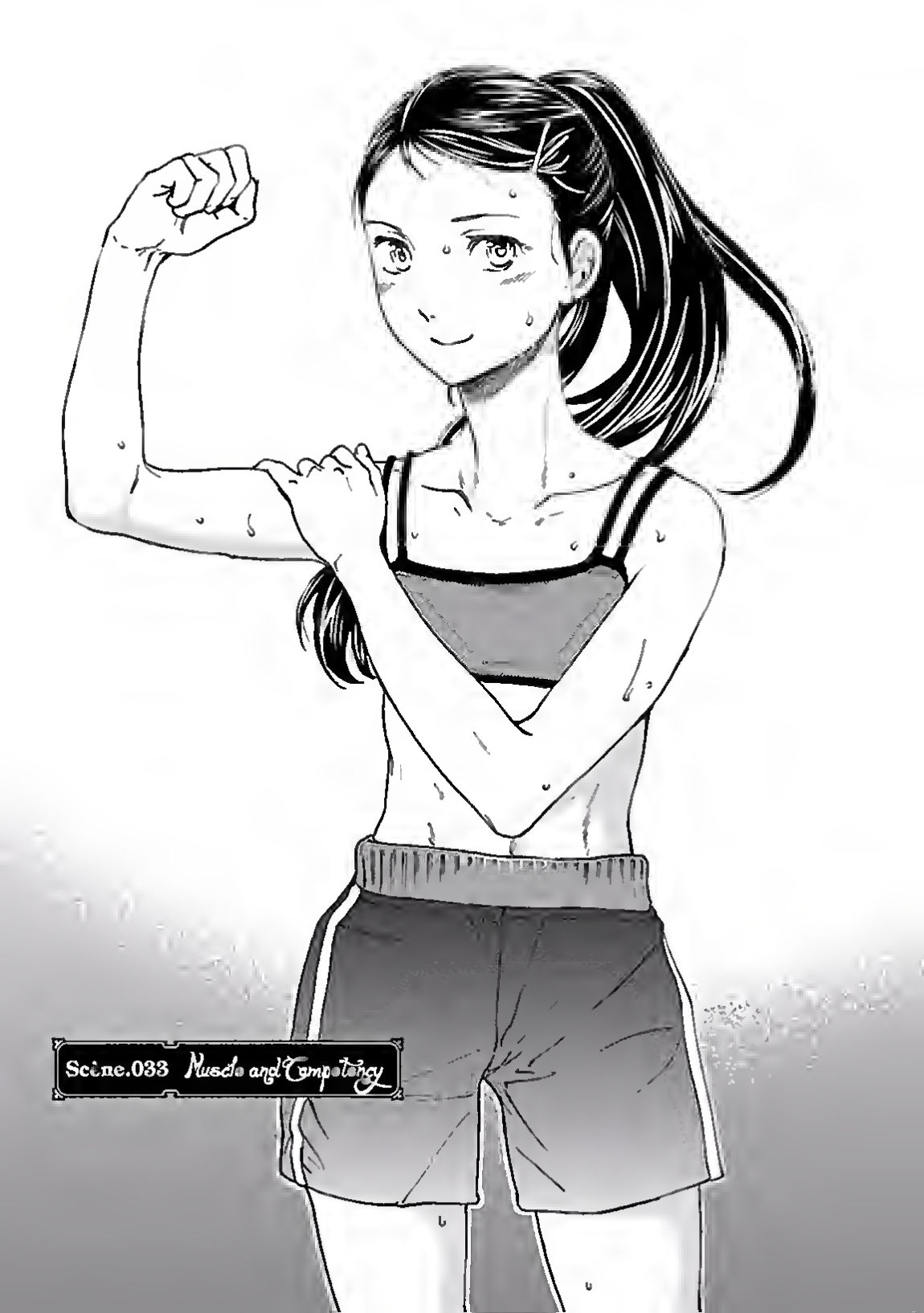
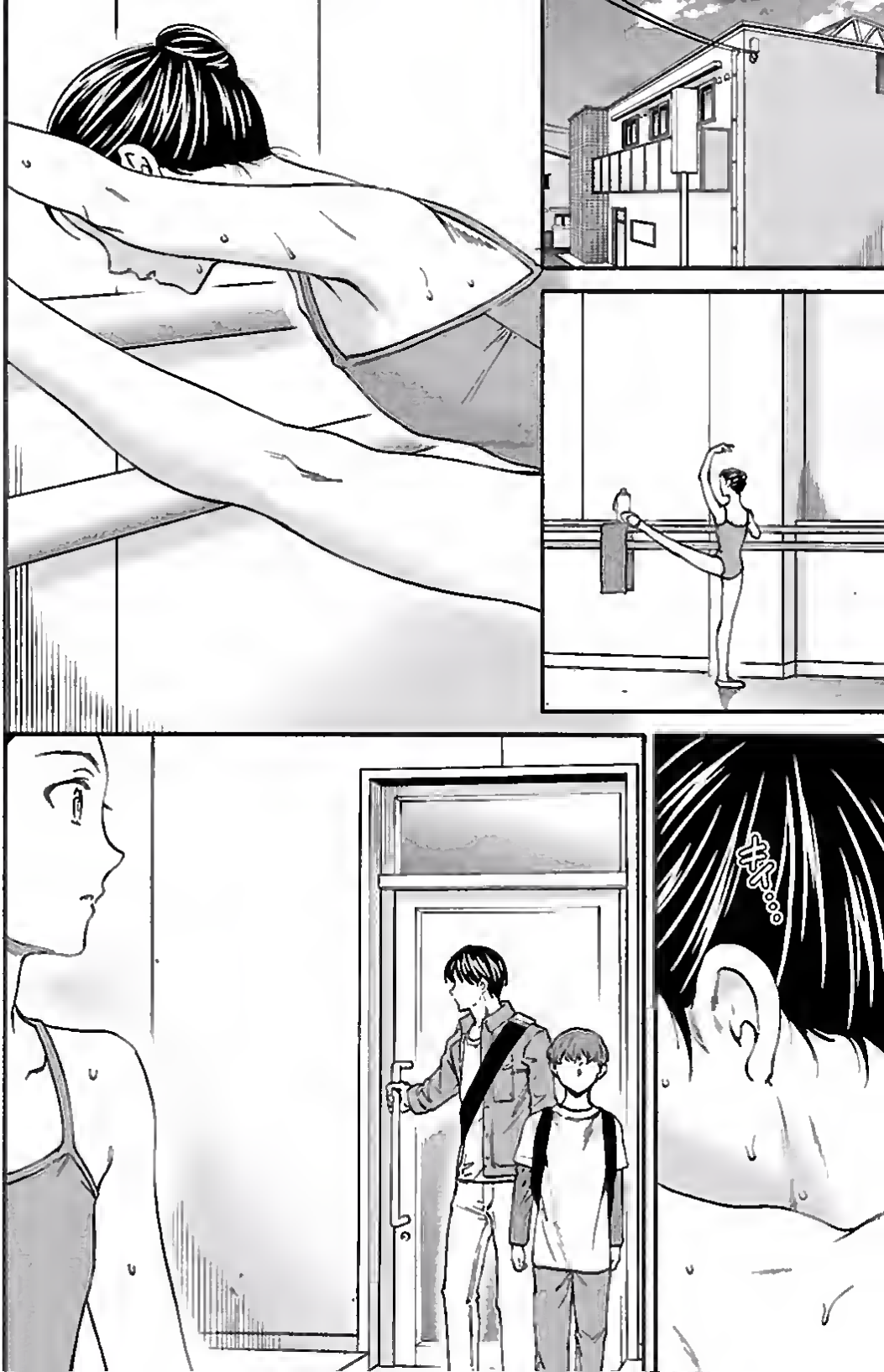
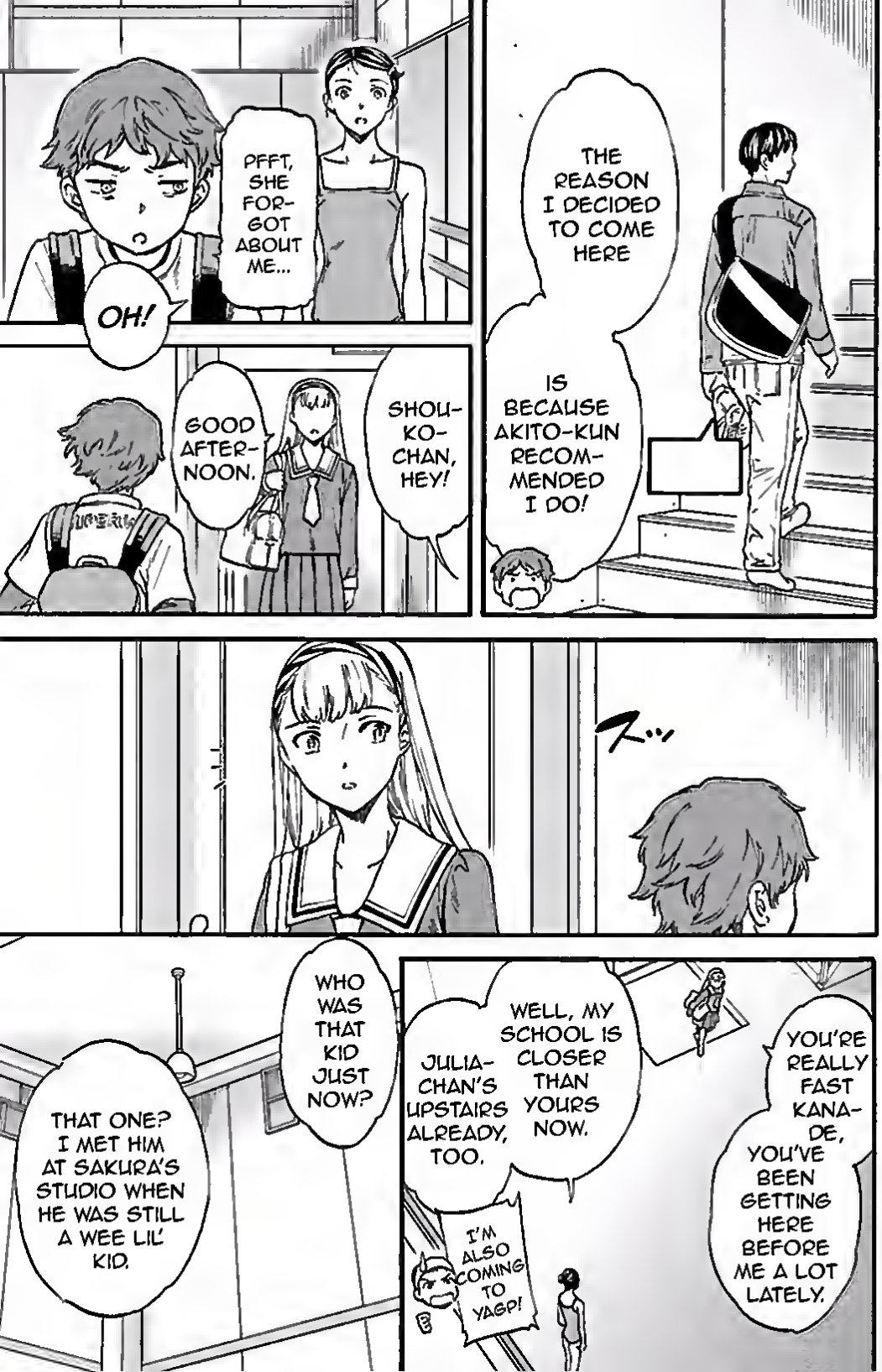
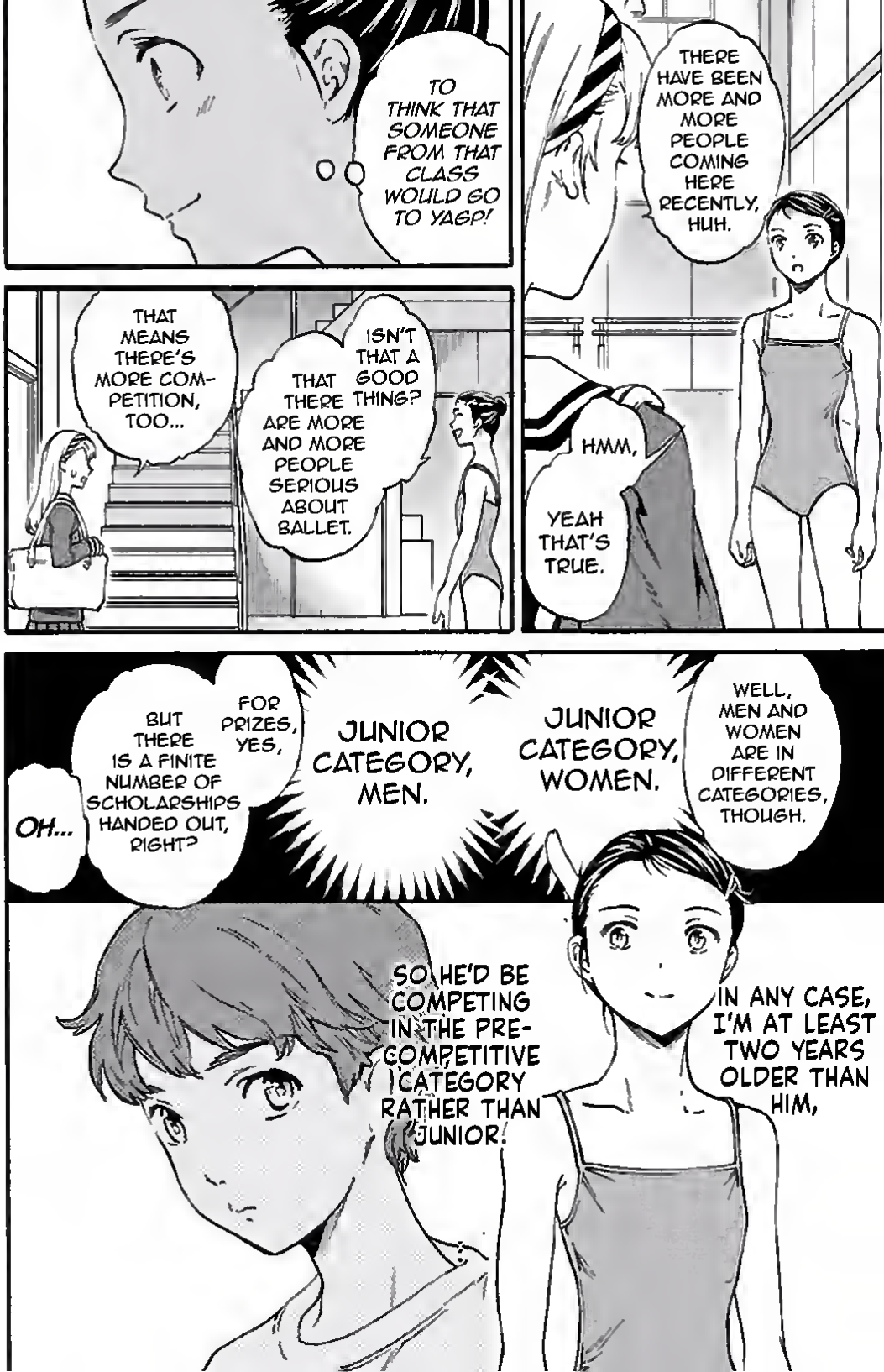

Scene.033 Muscle and Competency


キス…

HM?
I THOUGHT THERE WASN'T ANY BOYS' CLASS TODAY,
PRAC-TICE?
IS THAT SURPRIS-ING?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO THE YAGP AS WELL?
OH?
HM?
HMM...
WHERE HAVE I SEEN YOU BE-FORE?
REALLY?!

OOH!
I REMEMBER THAT FOUL MOUTH NOW...
YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ME?!
YOU HAVE A REALLY BAD MEMORY,
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
MY NAME IS RYOU TAKAI!
YOU'RE THE KID WHO WAS PRACTICING PIROUETTES AT THAT
LET'S DANCE FOR FUN CLASS!
I'LL SOON BE BETTER THAN AN IDIOT LIKE YOU!
KANADE ARIYA,
THAT'S MINE.
...
DON'T THINK FOR A SECOND AN IDIOT LIKE YOU MADE ME TRANSFER HERE!
YOU'VE GROWN UP SO MUCH!
STOP THAT!


PFFT, SHE FORGOT ABOUT ME...
OH!
GOOD AFTERNOON.
SHOU-KO-CHAN, HEY!
THE REASON I DECIDED TO COME HERE
IS BECAUSE AKITO-KUN RECOMMENDED I DO!
WHO WAS THAT KID JUST NOW?
THAT ONE? I MET HIM AT SAKURA'S STUDIO WHEN HE WAS STILL A WEE LIL' KID.
JULIA-CHAN'S UPSTAIRS ALREADY, TOO.
WELL, MY SCHOOL IS CLOSER THAN YOURS NOW.
I'M ALSO COMING TO YAGP!
YOU'RE REALLY FAST KANA-DE, YOU'VE BEEN GETTING HERE BEFORE ME A LOT LATELY.


TO THINK THAT SOMEONE FROM THAT CLASS WOULD GO TO YAGP!
THERE HAVE BEEN MORE AND MORE PEOPLE COMING HERE RECENTLY, HUH.
HMM,
YEAH THAT'S TRUE.
ISN'T THAT A GOOD THING?
THAT THERE ARE MORE AND MORE PEOPLE SERIOUS ABOUT BALLET.
THAT MEANS THERE'S MORE COMPETITION, TOO...
WELL, MEN AND WOMEN ARE IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES, THOUGH.
JUNIOR CATEGORY, WOMEN.
JUNIOR CATEGORY, MEN.
FOR PRIZES, YES,
BUT THERE IS A FINITE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS HANDED OUT, RIGHT?
OH...
IN ANY CASE, I'M AT LEAST TWO YEARS OLDER THAN HIM,
SO HE'D BE COMPETING IN THE PRE-COMPETITIVE CATEGORY RATHER THAN JUNIOR!

HE HE HE.
SIX ROTA- TIONS!
HOW!
SI-

!
THAT'S REALLY AWE-SOME!!
TO THINK YOU HAD A HARD TIME DOING JUST ONE AT THE TIME!
gloomy-
HOW MANY ROTATIONS CAN YOU DO?
I CAN DO FOUR!
BUT WOW, RYOU, YOU'RE AWE-SOME!
TURN BOARD?
YOU SPUN STRAIGHT FROM YOUR AXIS!
AND YOU WERE PRETTY STABLE TOO!
YOU PRO-GRESSED SO MUCH IN A YEAR AND A HALF!
HE'S JUST USING A TURN-BOARD.
STOP RIDING THAT LIE ANY FARTHER...
HEHEHE, IT'S A PIECE OF CAKE! SEE? I CAUGHT UP TO YOU ALREADY—

NEVER HEARD ABOUT IT BEFORE,
HOW DO YOU USE IT?
YOU JUST PUT IT ON THE GROUND AND STEP ON IT...
...
À TERRE.
À TERRE
RELEVÉ
PIROUETTES ARE GENERALLY DONE RELEVÉES.

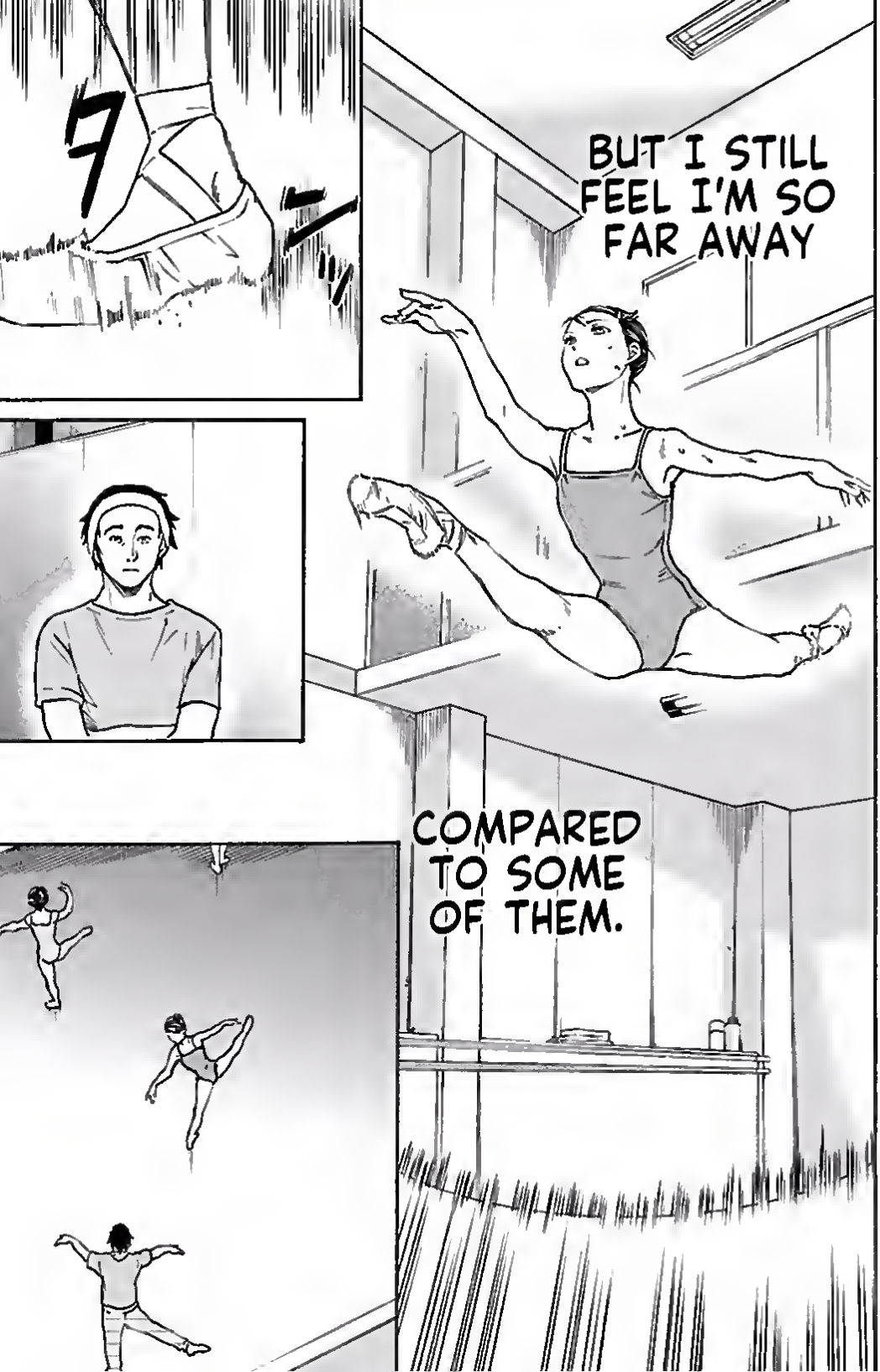
THAT LOOKS FUN!! LET ME TRY IT!!
K-KANADE, DON'T HURT YOURSELF..
I'LL PAY ATTENTION!
DO I HAVE TO PUT MY FOOT À TERRE?
YEAH, BUT...
WOAH! THAT'S PRETTY NICE!
DON'T EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO DO WELL ON YOUR FIRST TRY...
EH?!
IT FEELS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM EN POINTE,
YOU CAN REALLY FEEL YOUR BODY MOVING AROUND YOUR AXIS!

THIS IS SO FUN!!!
GIVE IT BACK!
ぐるぐる
I'M SURE IT'LL HELP FOR YAGP!!
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO 10 ROTATIONS!
JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER!
I'LL PRACTICE PIROUETTES WITH THAT!
IT'S DECIDED,

HMM... cough cough
ANY-WAY, LET'S START THE LESSON, AND I'LL SEE YOU INDIVIDUALLY TO WORK ON YOUR CHOREO-GRAPHIES AFTER THAT.
AND WHILE I DON'T THINK IT'S A BAD TOOL, RYOU-KUN, YOU SHOULD ALSO WORK ON YOUR PIROU-ETTES NORMALLY EN RELEVÉ AS WELL.
AREN'T YOU ALREADY ABLE TO DO FOUR PIROUETTES NORMAL-LY?
YOU DON'T NEED ANY MORE THAN FOUR EVEN WHEN DANCING DIANA.
UGH

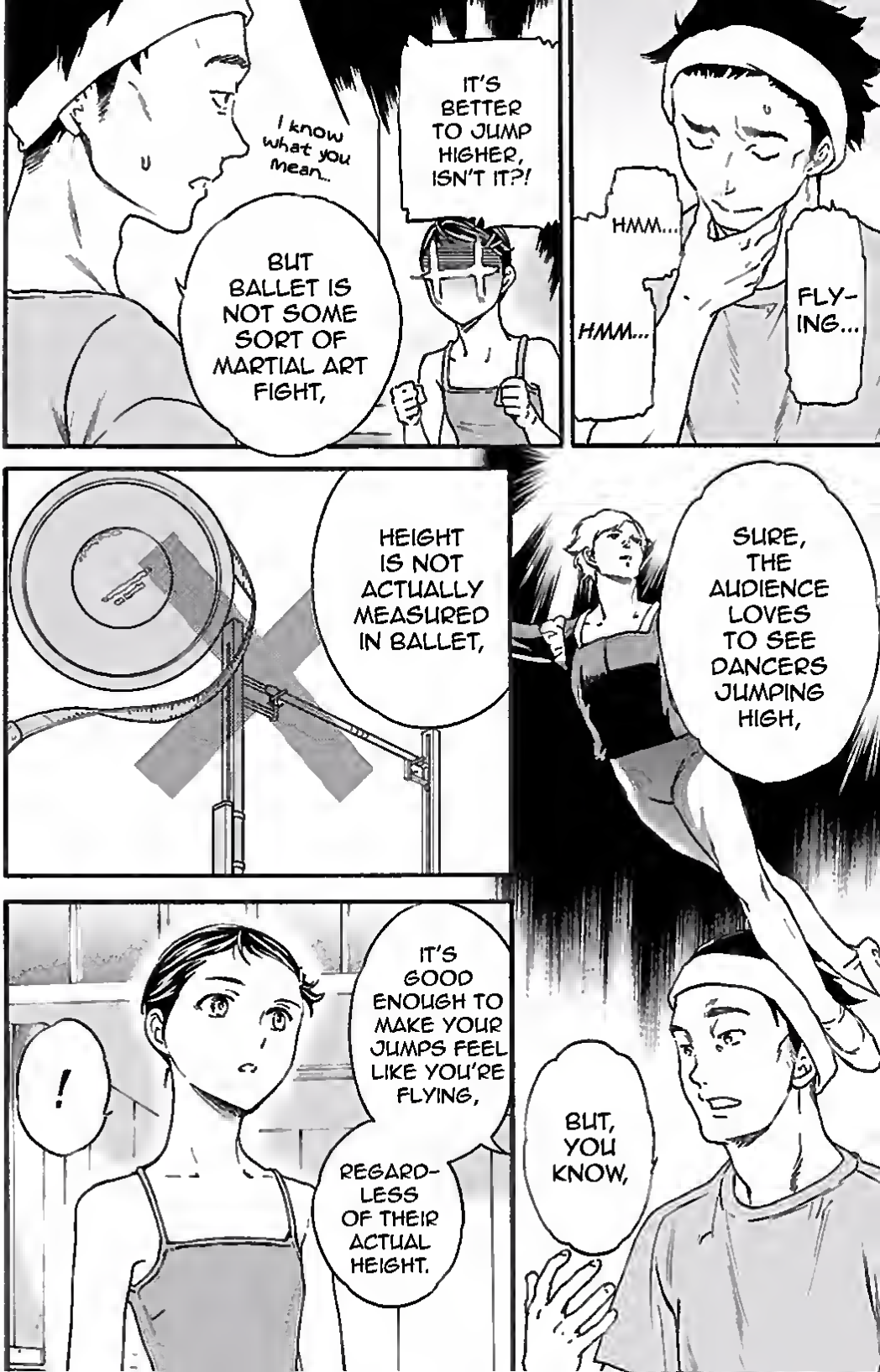
MAKE SURE YOUR WHOLE BODY IS STRAIGHT.
SAME AS WHEN YOU'RE DOING PIROU-ETTES.
BUT HIS ATTITUDE IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THEN AT LEAST...
AAH... GROWING UP—
SO CUTE.
HE HONESTLY STILL HAS A LONG WAY TO GO...
STRAIGHT
STRAIGHT

I PROBABLY WOULDN'T LOSE TO ANDREA
IF I COULD LEAP LIKE THAT...
WOW, THAT'S A REALLY NICE LEAP...
THAT THE AMERICAN AUDIENCE REALLY LIKED FLASHY, RAPID MOVEMENTS AND STEPS,
THINKING ABOUT WHAT SAKURA SAID...
I'D SAY I'M DOING PRETTY WELL AMONG WOMEN ALREADY,
BUT I CAN'T AFFORD TO PUT AS MUCH MUSCLE ON MY LEGS AS MEN, EITHER.
...

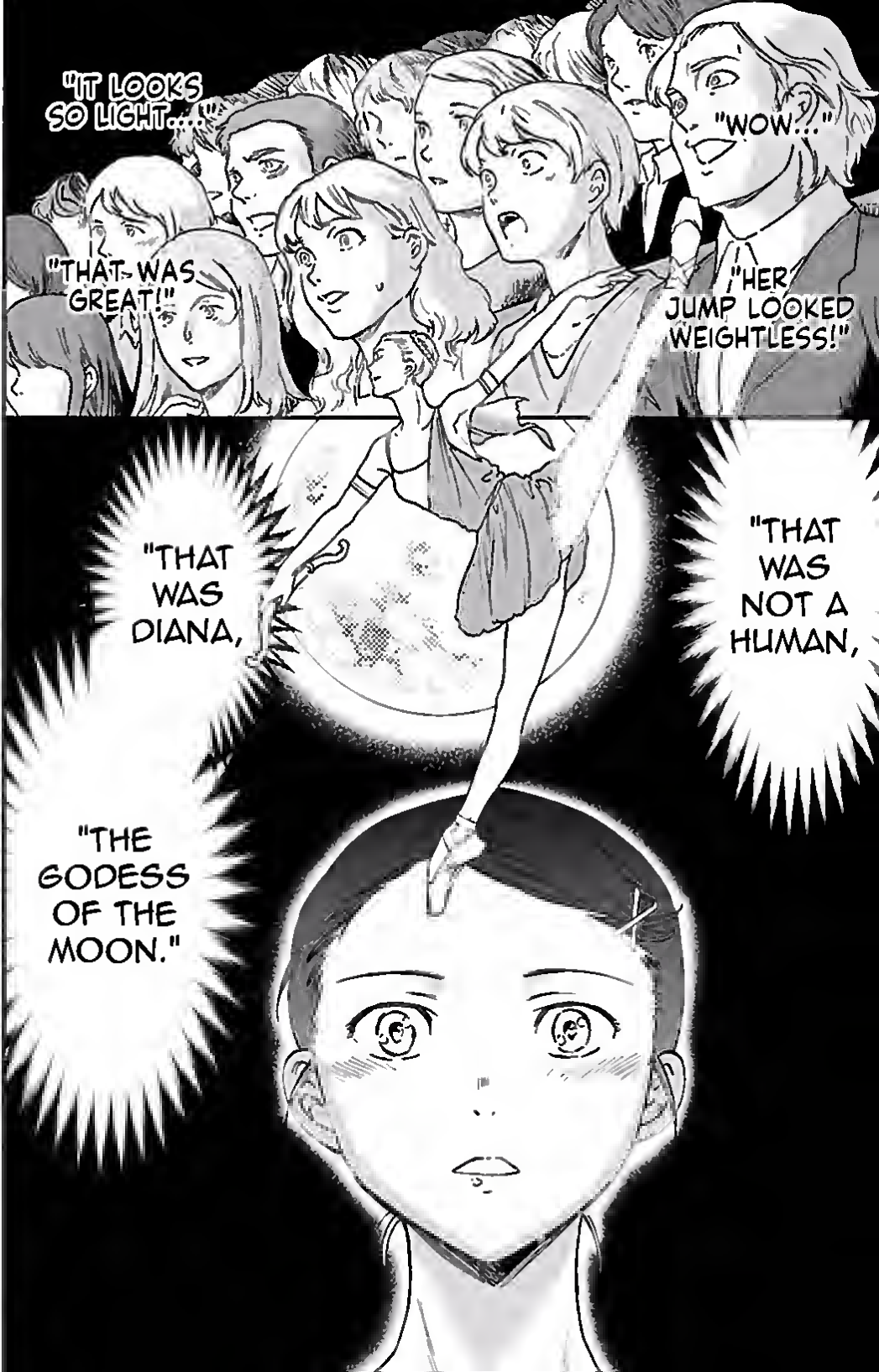

BUT I STILL FEEL I'M SO FAR AWAY
COMPARED TO SOME OF THEM.

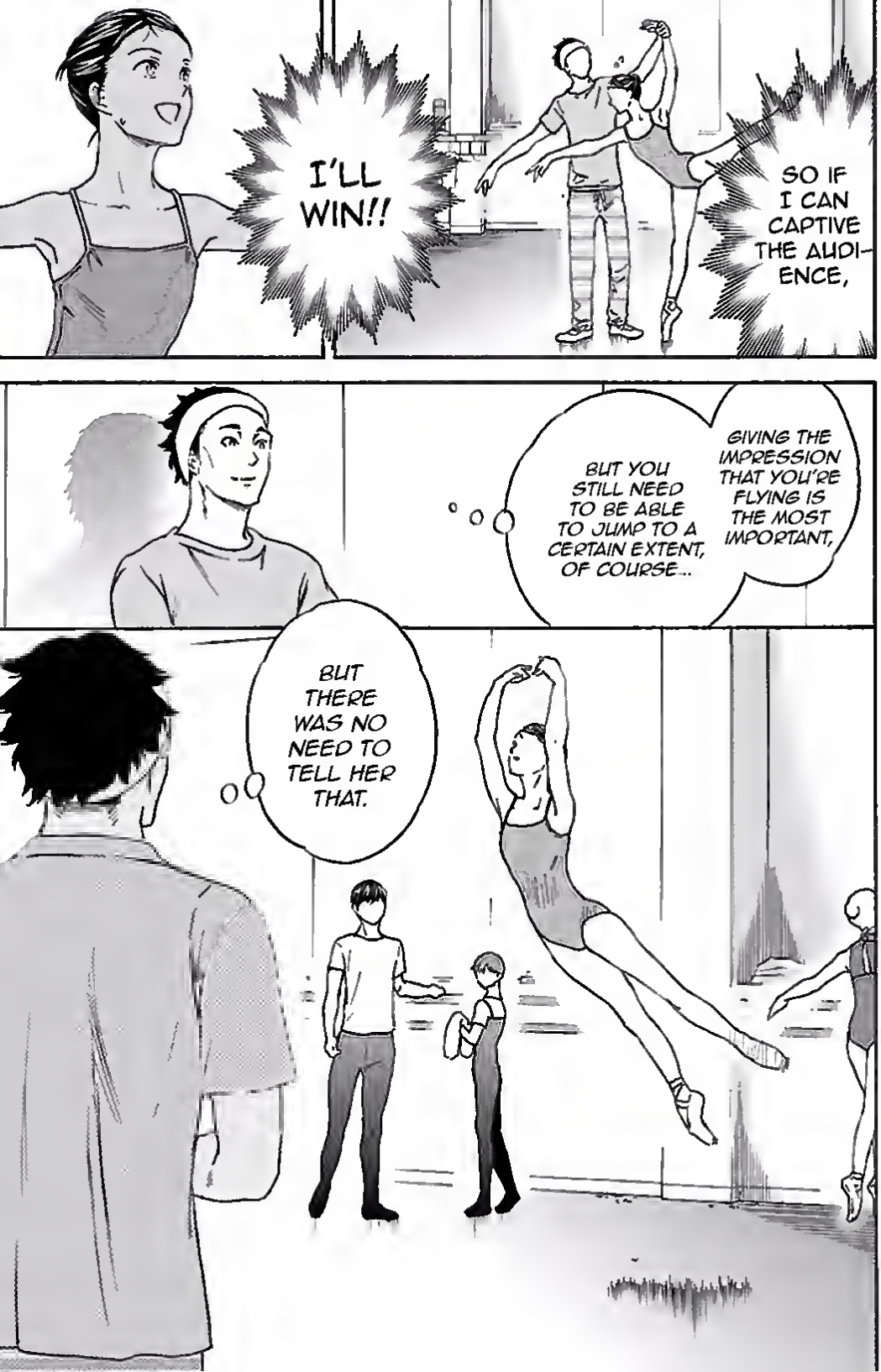
INTO ATTI-TUDE!
ARA-BESQUE
AND, FROM DER-RIÈRE,
GRAND PAS DE CHAT!

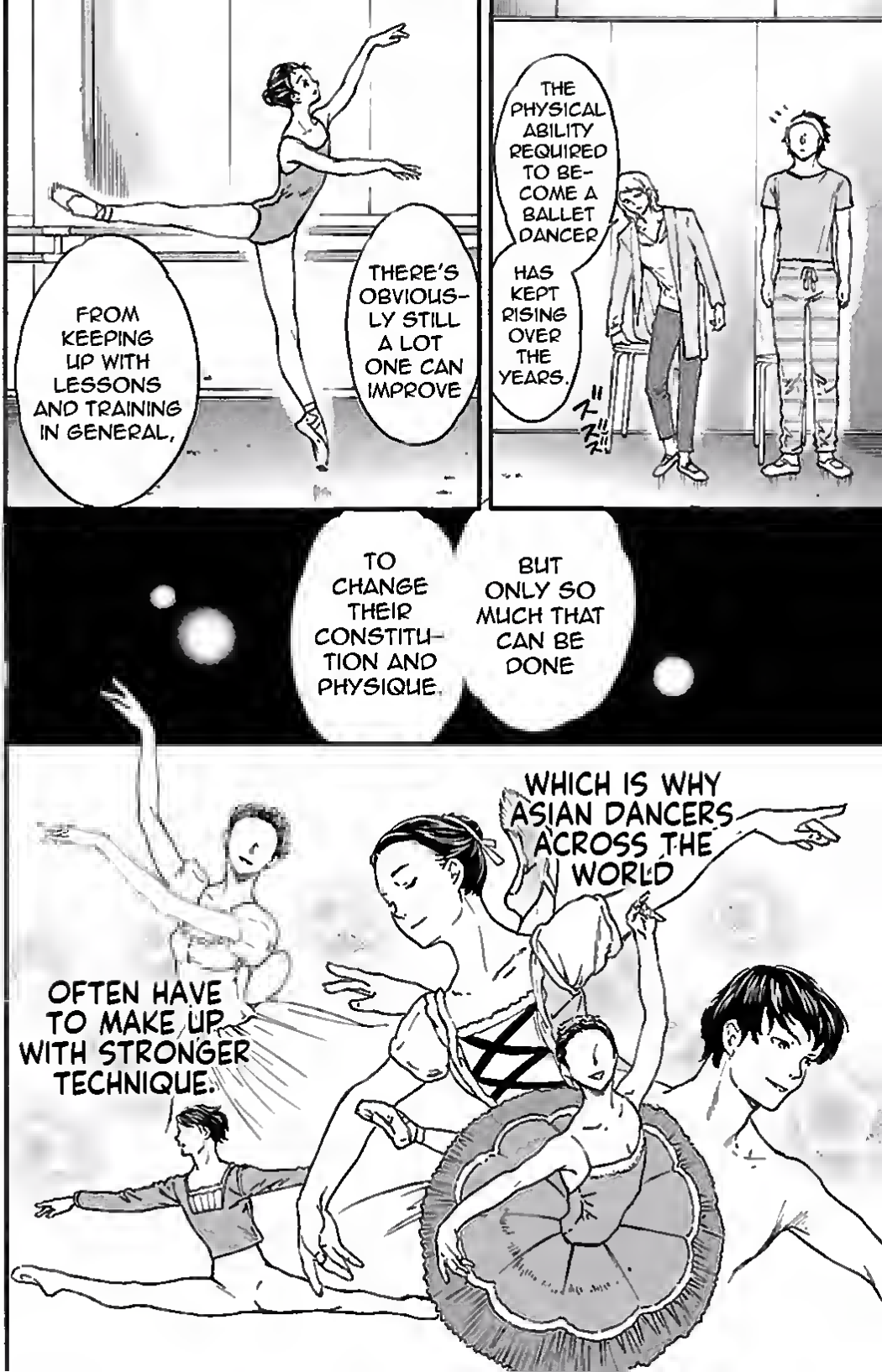
FOR A GIRL HER AGE.
THAT'S HIGH
AS ALWAYS...
BEFORE I MOVE ON TO THE NEXT,
OKAY,
DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION?
UMM,
JUMPING HIGHER WOULD MAKE IT SEEM LIKE I'M FLYING, RIGHT?
ABOUT THAT LAST STEP JUST NOW,


I know what you mean...
BUT BALLET IS NOT SOME SORT OF MARTIAL ART FIGHT,
IT'S BETTER TO JUMP HIGHER, ISN'T IT?!
HMM...
HMM...
FLY-ING...
HEIGHT IS NOT ACTUALLY MEASURED IN BALLET,
SURE, THE AUDIENCE LOVES TO SEE DANCERS JUMPING HIGH,
!
IT'S GOOD ENOUGH TO MAKE YOUR JUMPS FEEL LIKE YOU'RE FLYING,
REGARD-LESS OF THEIR ACTUAL HEIGHT.
BUT, YOU KNOW,

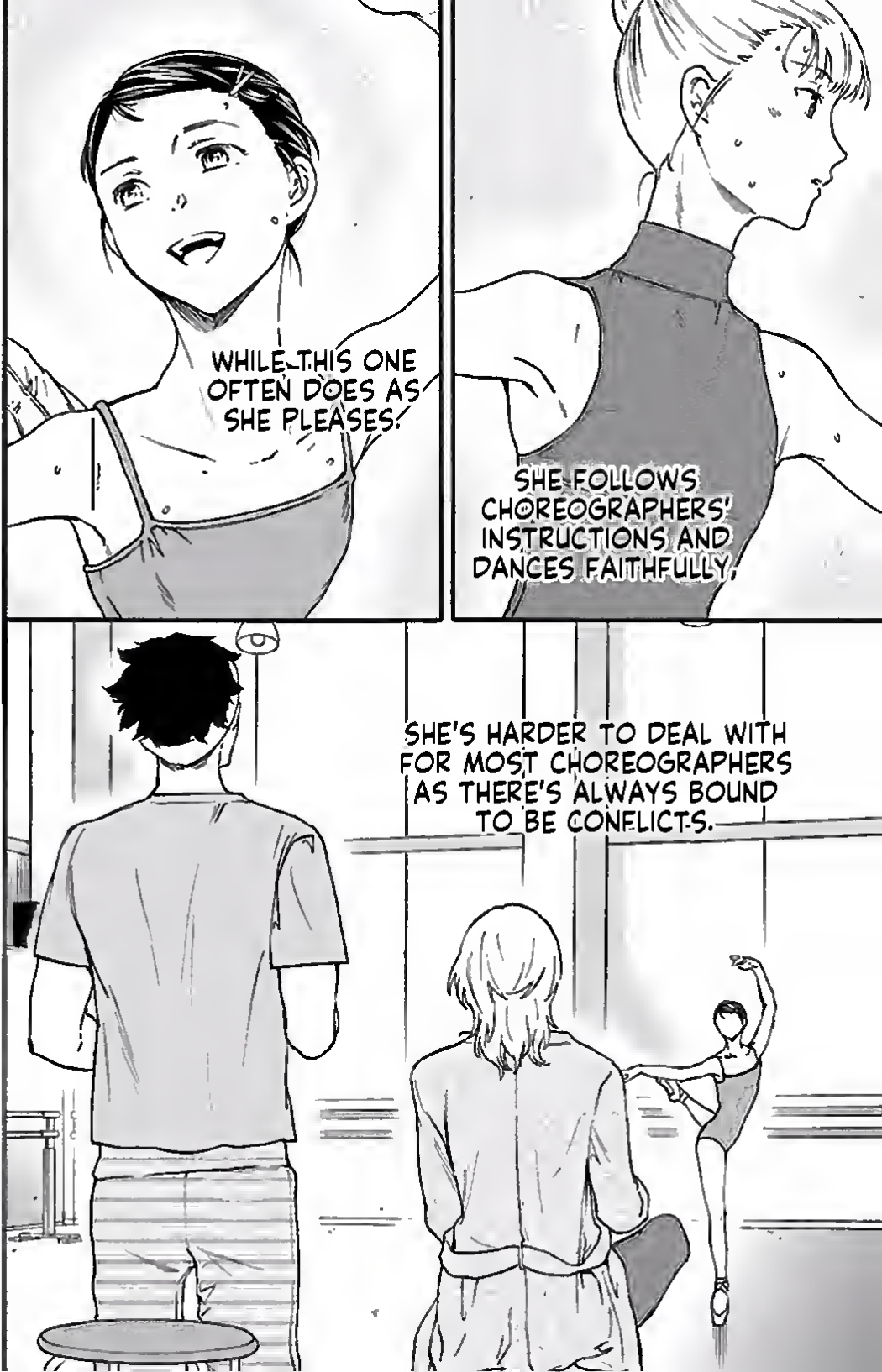
STRETCH YOUR UPPER BODY,
AND MUFFLE THE SOUND OF YOUR LANDING AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
SPRING AS IF IT WERE EFFORT-LESS,
YOU DON'T NEED EXTRA MUSCLES TO DO THAT.
THOSE ARE JUST TECHNIQUES THAT YOU DEVELOP OVER TIME,
THROUGH NORMAL LES-SONS.
IT WOULD BE BY CON-QUER-ING
THE HEART OF YOUR AUDI-ENCE.
BUT IF THERE WERE A WAY TO WIN AT IT,
BALLET ISN'T A MATCH,

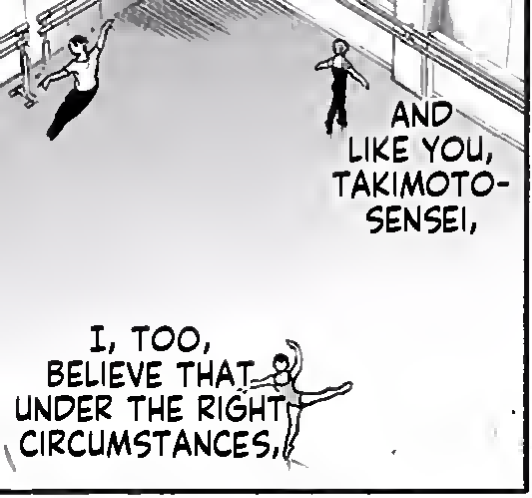

"IT LOOKS SO LIGHT...!"
"WOW..."
"THAT WAS GREAT!"
"HER JUMP LOOKED WEIGHTLESS!"
"THAT WAS DIANA,
"THAT WAS NOT A HUMAN,
"THE GODESS OF THE MOON."


I'LL WIN!!
SO IF I CAN CAPTIVE THE AUDI-ENCE,
GIVING THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU'RE FLYING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT,
BUT YOU STILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO JUMP TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, OF COURSE...
BUT THERE WAS NO NEED TO TELL HER THAT.


FROM KEEPING UP WITH LESSONS AND TRAINING IN GENERAL,
THERE'S OBVIOUSLY STILL A LOT ONE CAN IMPROVE
THE PHYSICAL ABILITY REQUIRED TO BECOME A BALLET DANCER
HAS KEPT RISING OVER THE YEARS.
ZZZ
BUT ONLY SO MUCH THAT CAN BE DONE
TO CHANGE THEIR CONSTITUTION AND PHYSIQUE.
WHICH IS WHY ASIAN DANCERS ACROSS THE WORLD
OFTEN HAVE TO MAKE UP WITH STRONGER TECHNIQUE.

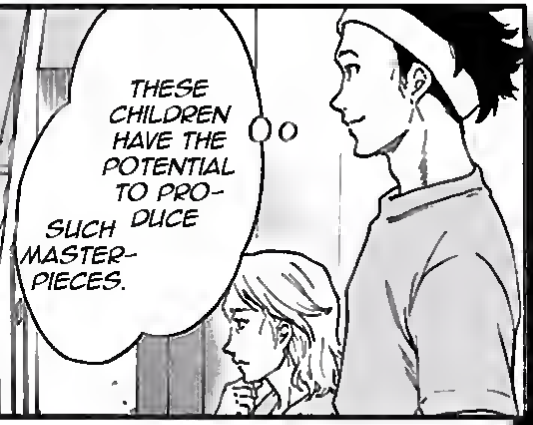
AND I BELIEVE THAT GIRL HAS THE POTEN-TIAL
TO WIN OVER AUDI-ENCES ACROSS THE WORLD,
AND BECOME ONE OF THE BEST BALLE-RINAS.
I DIDN'T THINK
TAKI-MOTO-SENSEI WAS THAT SERIOUS ABOUT HER.
??
IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ONE,
I'D PREFER TEACHING TO THAT GIRL.

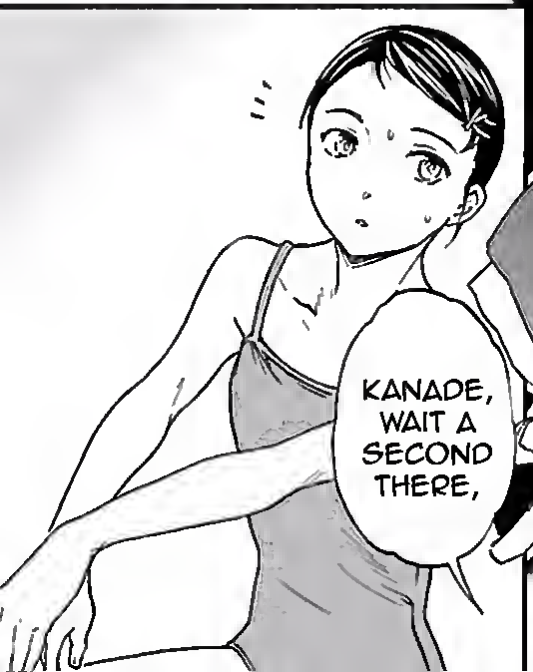

WHILE THIS ONE OFTEN DOES AS SHE PLEASES.
SHE FOLLOWS CHOREOGRAPHERS' INSTRUCTIONS AND DANCES FAITHFULLY.
SHE'S HARDER TO DEAL WITH FOR MOST CHOREOGRAPHERS AS THERE'S ALWAYS BOUND TO BE CONFLICTS.



THE THRUTH, HOWEVER, IS THAT TIME AND TIME AGAIN,

MASTERPIECES HAVE EMERGED FROM THE COMBINATION OF THIS TYPE OF DANCER WITH THEIR MATCHING CHOREOGRAPHER.





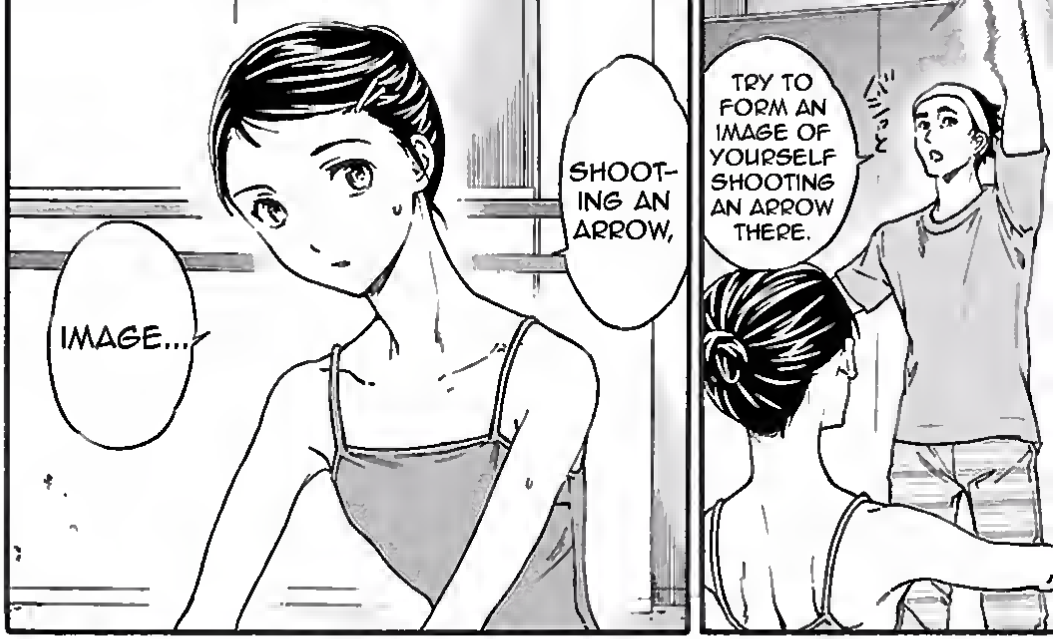
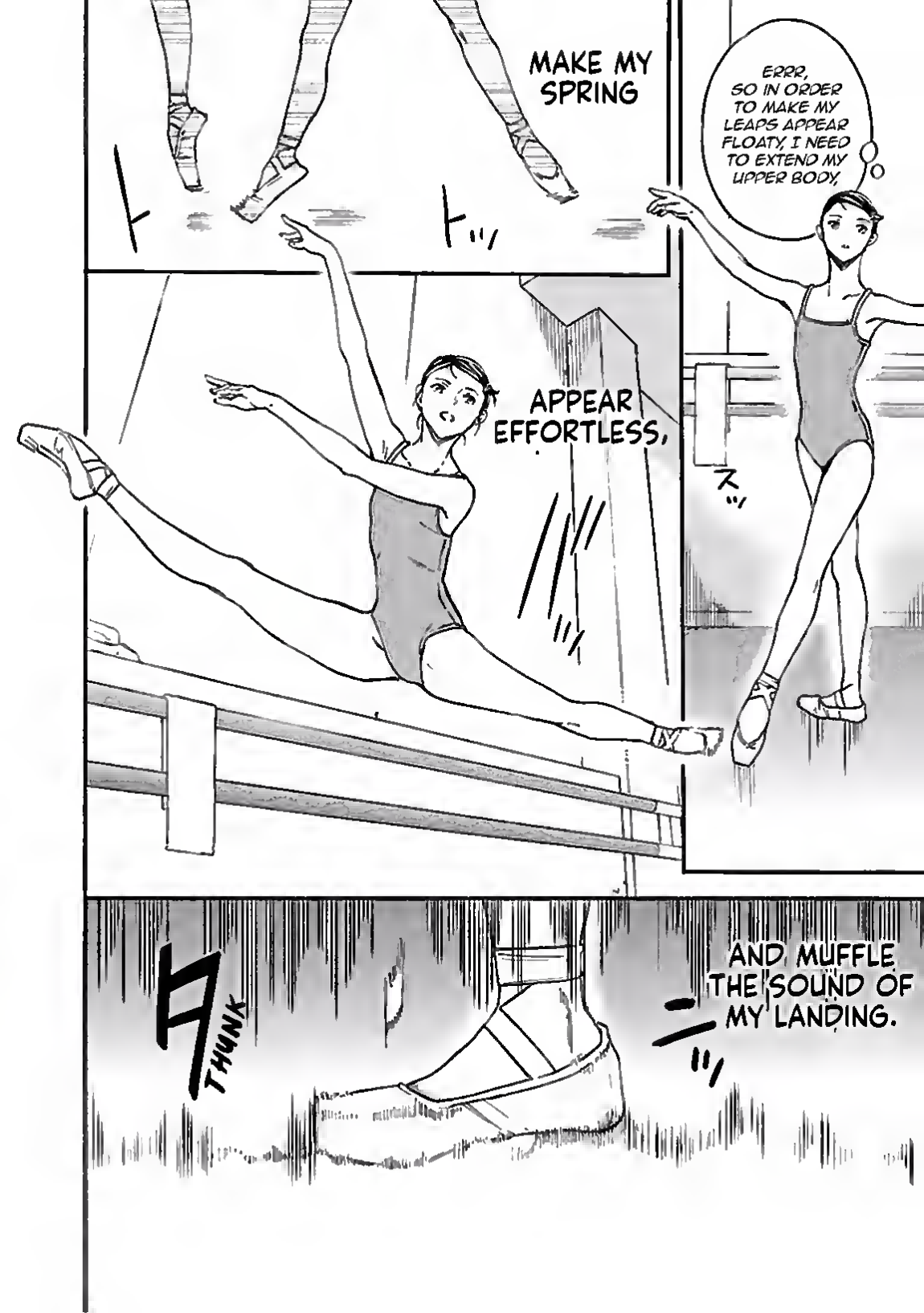


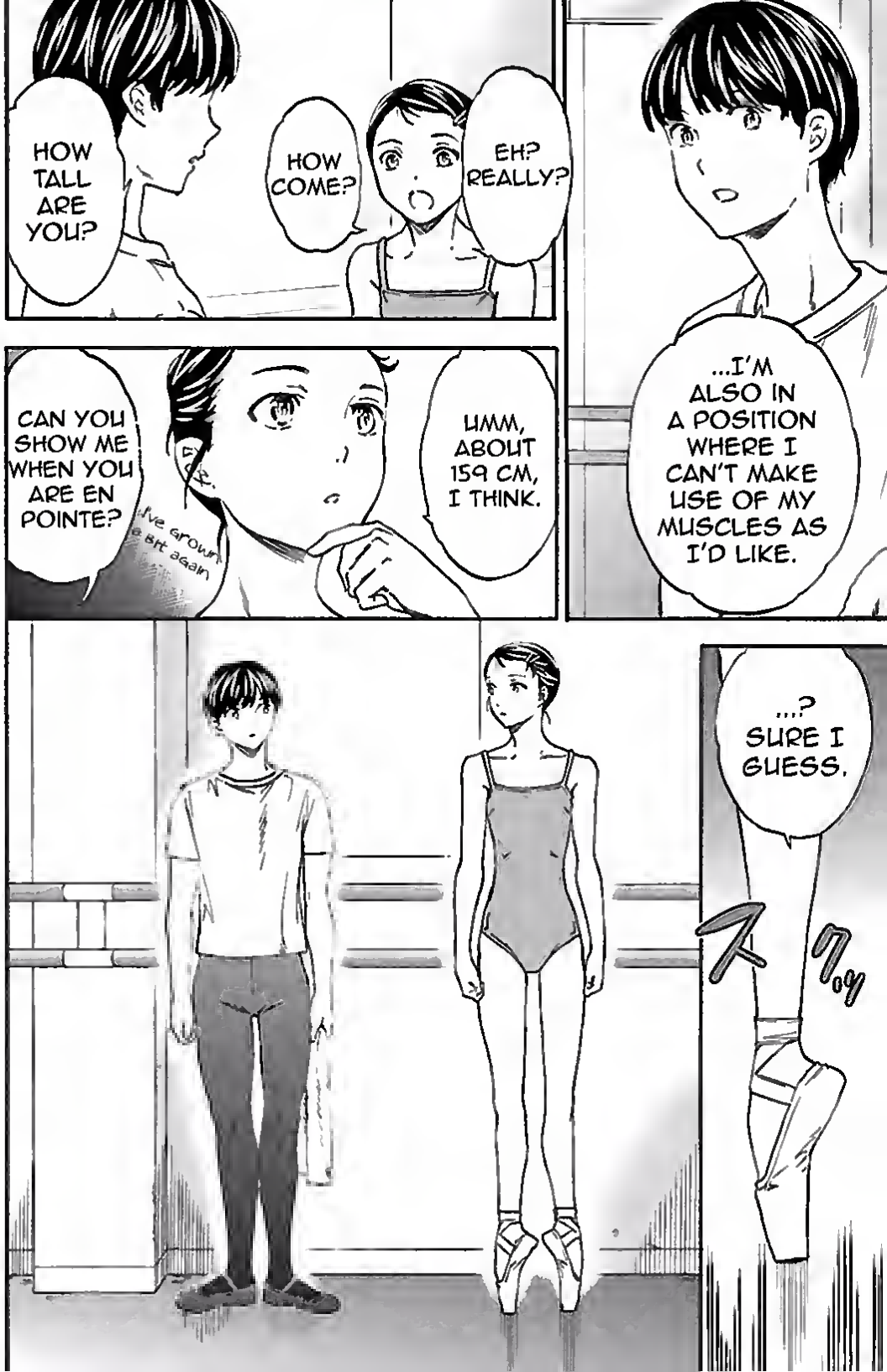
IMAGE...
SHOOTING AN ARROW,
TRY TO FORM AN IMAGE OF YOURSELF SHOOTING AN ARROW THERE.

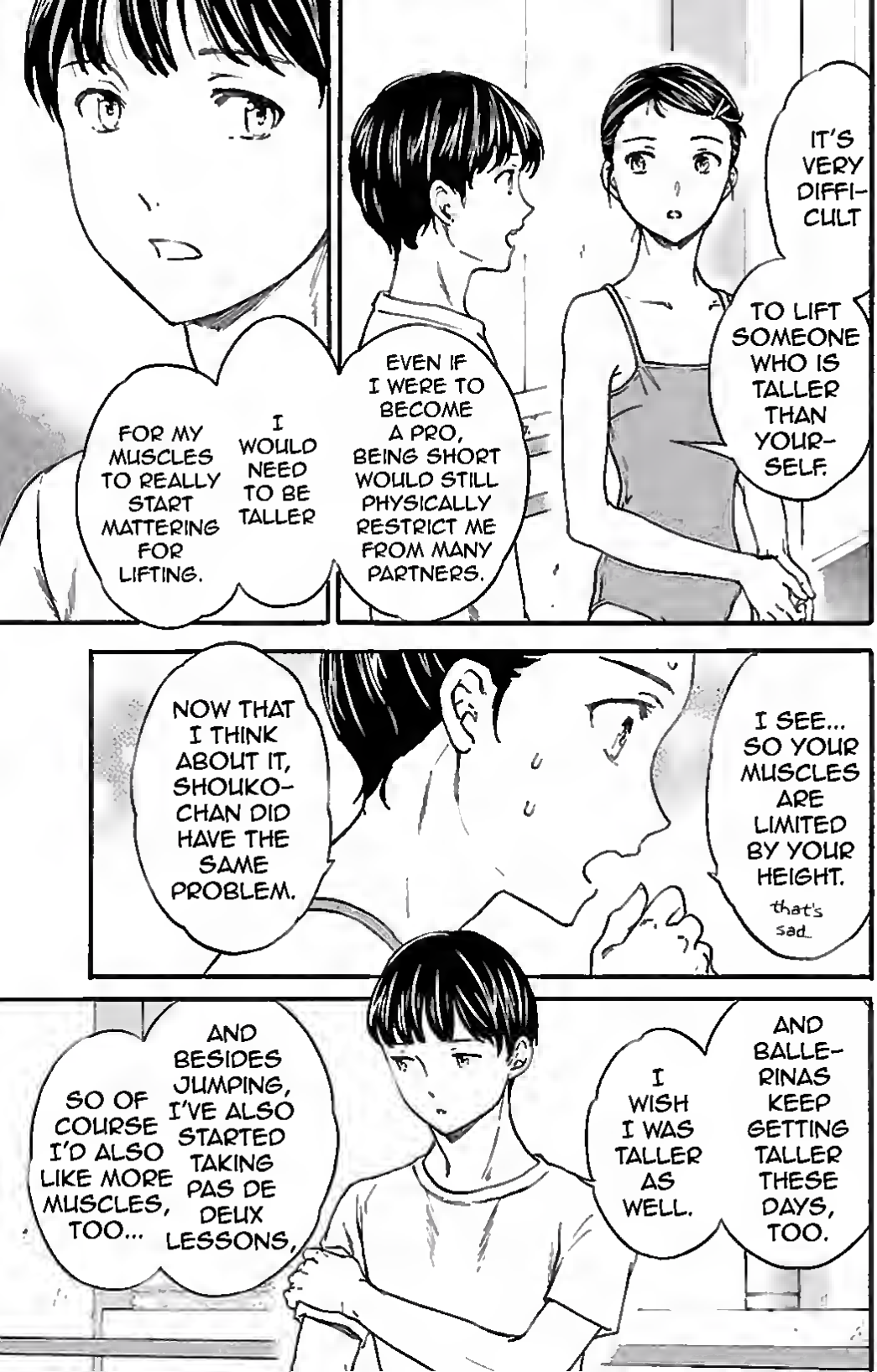
JUST AN IMAGE, NOT LIKE THE REAL THING,
HA...
YOUR LEFT ARM SHOULD STILL BE EN HAUT.
YEAH, LIKE DRAWING A BOW...
AND SHOOT!
TII

I KNOW!
I HAVE FRIENDS IN THE KYUDO CLUB, SO I'LL ASK THEM TOMORROW!
!
IMAGE, HMM...
I'VE NEVER HELD A BOW BEFORE...
...OH!
IT WOULD BE BAD IF THE GODDESS OF HUNTING
DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO USE A BOW!
DIANA DIDN'T PRACTICE JAPANESE ARCHERY, BUT THOUGH... THAT'S THE SPIRIT AT LEAST
yup yup


MAKE MY SPRING
ERRR, SO IN ORDER TO MAKE MY LEAPS APPEAR FLOATY, I NEED TO EXTEND MY UPPER BODY,
APPEAR EFFORTLESS,
THUNK
AND MUFFLE THE SOUND OF MY LANDING.

YEAH... IT'S NOT EASY.
IT STILL RESOUNDS A LOT AS IS.
EH?
OH.
I NEED MORE MUS-CLE... MUS-CLE...
I STILL THINK IT WOULD BE EASIER TO JUST JUMP HIGHER!
RATHER THAN TRYING TO MAKE IT APPEAR LIKE I'M FLYING
...
I'D ALSO LIKE TO BE ABLE TO USE MY MUSCLES TO SPRING THAT HIGH LIKE YOU.
I'M ENVIOUS OF YOU GUYS,

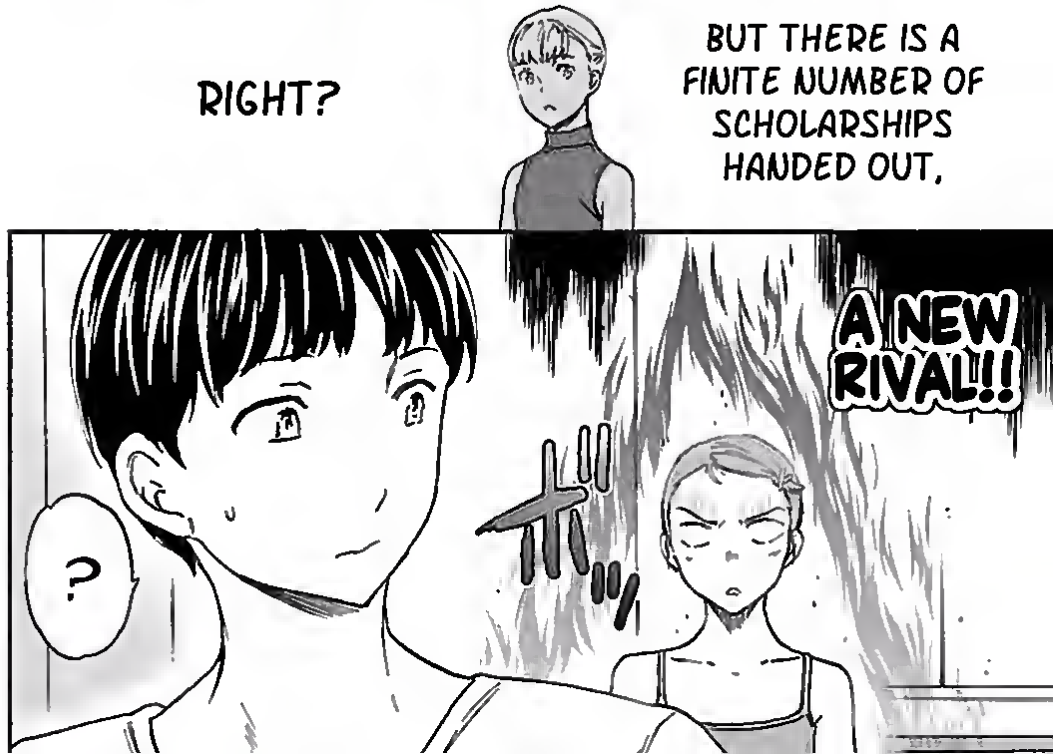

HOW TALL ARE YOU?
HOW COME?
EH? REALLY?
...I'M ALSO IN A POSITION WHERE I CAN'T MAKE USE OF MY MUSCLES AS I'D LIKE.
UMM, ABOUT 159 CM, I THINK.
I've grown a bit again
CAN YOU SHOW ME WHEN YOU ARE EN POINTE?
...? SURE I GUESS.
スクッ

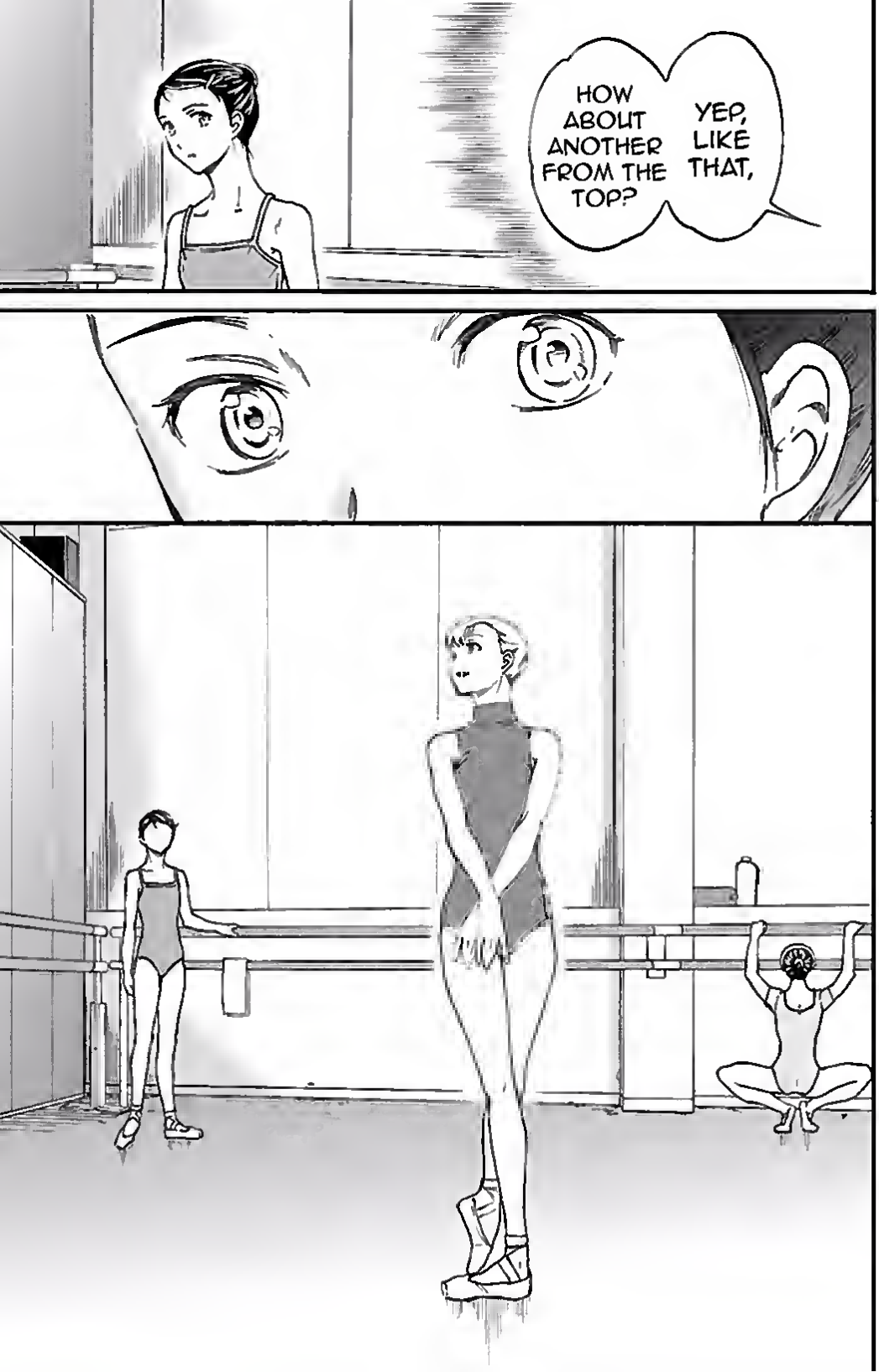

IT'S VERY DIFFI-CULT
TO LIFT SOMEONE WHO IS TALLER THAN YOUR-SELF.
EVEN IF I WERE TO BECOME A PRO, BEING SHORT WOULD STILL PHYSICALLY RESTRICT ME FROM MANY PARTNERS.
I WOULD NEED TO BE TALLER
FOR MY MUSCLES TO REALLY START MATTERING FOR LIFTING.
I SEE... SO YOUR MUSCLES ARE LIMITED BY YOUR HEIGHT.
that's sad.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, SHOUKO-CHAN DID HAVE THE SAME PROBLEM.
AND BALLE-RINAS KEEP GETTING TALLER THESE DAYS, TOO.
I WISH I WAS TALLER AS WELL.
AND BESIDES JUMPING, I'VE ALSO STARTED TAKING PAS DE DEUX LESSONS,
SO OF COURSE I'D ALSO LIKE MORE MUSCLES, TOO...

PAS DE DEUX?!
EH?! HOW OLD ARE YOU, AKITO-KUN?!
I'M JUST ABOUT TO TURN 13 MYSELF.
I'M 14, BUT 13 IS ABOUT THE TIME YOU'LL BE STARTING, RIGHT?
I...
AL-READY?
PAS DE DEUX!!

PERFORMING TURNS, LIFTS AND STEPS TOGETHER WITH A MAN...
AH, YEAH, SORRY FOR BOTHER-ING YOU.
I'M ALMOST AT THE AGE TO START PRACTICING PAS DE DEUX...!
I'LL GO BACK TO PRACTICE, OKAY?
...I SEE MEN HAVE THEIR OWN ISSUES.

OF COURSE HE'S AIMING TO BECOME A PRO!
HE DID SAY "EVEN IF I WERE TO BECOME A PRO..."
A 14 YEARS OLD JUNIOR GOING TO YAGP,


RIGHT?
BUT THERE IS A FINITE NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS HANDED OUT,
A NEW RIVAL!!
?


HOW ABOUT ANOTHER FROM THE TOP?
YEP, LIKE THAT,

EVERY-ONE HERE IS A RIVAL!
I WON'T LOSE TO ANY OF YOU!!

絢爛たるグランドセーヌ

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